

Resource and Regulatory Agency Coordination Update

Throughout the project planning process, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) coordinate with state and federal resource and regulatory agencies to assure that all environmental resources are identified and considered. The agencies include:

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- Delaware State Historic Preservation Officer
- Delaware Department of Agriculture
- Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination

Ten formal agency coordination meetings have been held to date to discuss various aspects of the project, such as:

- Concurrence on the project's Purpose and Need
- Review of the Range of Alternatives and preliminary environmental inventory
- Concurrence on the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Evaluation
- Review of results from the Public Workshops and meetings with individuals and community associations
- Evaluation of engineering adjustments to the alternatives to eliminate or minimize impacts to resources
- Traffic projections, toll diversions issues

In addition to formal agency meetings, field views were conducted to evaluate the presence of resources that may be affected by one or more of the alternatives. Field views included waters of the US and wetlands delineations, wetlands quality assessments, evaluation of potential bog turtle habitat areas, reviews of areas with potential noise impacts, review of potential historic properties and potential effects due to noise or visual impacts.

Additional efforts include coordination with WILMAPCO, the Maryland Department of Transportation, State Highway Administration, officials of Kent and Cecil Counties in Maryland and representatives of several towns in Maryland regarding potential toll diversion issues.